(b) if so, the details of reports received so far and the main feature thereof;

(c) the names of sick fertilizer units/ plants which are reported viable; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (d) Government have not asked for a report on the viability of sick fertilizer units/plants in the proivate sector. Presently there are two Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (HFC) under the administrative control of this department, which have been declared as sick industrial companies by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). A revival package for Projects & Development India Ltd. (PDIL), which had also been declared as a sick industrial company, was approved by the Government on 29.4.97 and sanctioned by BIFR on 1.9.97. The revival package has been put under implementation and relief/concessions envisaged there in have since been accorded.

According to the records available in the Ministry, Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Chemicals Limited is a sick industrial company in the private sector and comes within the purview of BIFR. There has been no substantial progress with regard to its rehabilitation package so far.

Studies have been carried out from time to time in respect of the units of HFC as well as FCI to improve their performance. For instance, Paul Pothen Committee, which carried out studies on technical and financial health of the various units of HFC & FCI. Very recently an expert group led by Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) has carried out a technical appraisal for the revival packages for both HFC as well as FCI.

As per the recommendations of the Expert Group led by ICICI, Government have approved the revamp of the Namrup units of HFC on 1Ã10.97 at an estimated fresh investment of Rs. 350 crore. Comprehensive rehabilitation proposals in respect of the remaining units of FCI and HFC are presently under inter-ministerial consultations.

Forest Cover in Gujarat

1409. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest cover existing in the State of Gujarat as on date;

(b) whether extensive afforestation programmes are being undertaken in the State:

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether grazing is one of the main reasons for the degradation of forests in the State; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: (a) As per State of Forest Report 1997, the forest cover in the State of Gujarat is 12,578 square kilometers.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, an area of 2.38 lakh hectares have been afforested in Gujarat in last four years.

(b) and (e) Yes, Sir, guidelines have been issued to all State Governments for involving local people in protection and management of degraded forests through Joint Forest Management. In State of Gujarat, so far, 541 village level committees have been formed and around 69,000 hectares of degraded forest is being protected through Joint Forest Management. Afforested areas are closed for grazing till the establishment of plantations.